

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph on page 14, lines 21-34, with the following paragraph:

1210 g of N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP) and 1202 g of TOLONATE® HDT, Rhodia, a hexamethylene diisocyanate trimer with an NCO content of 0.52 mol per 100 g (i.e. 6 mol of NCO), are successively added to a 6 l jacketed three-necked reactor equipped with a stirrer and a reflux condenser. The reaction mixture is stirred and 619 g of 2-ethylimidazole with a purity of 98% (with a molecular weight of 96.13), i.e. 6.3 mol, are added over 5 min. The temperature of the reaction medium changes from 20°C. to 69.4°C. 5 min after the end of the addition of the blocking agent. The reaction medium is then heated at 80°C. approximately until the IR spectrum indicates that virtually all the isocyanate functional groups have reacted, i.e. 4 h after the end of the addition of the blocking agent.

Please replace the paragraph on page 15, lines 11-18, with the following paragraph:

For the other examples, the preparation is carried out as for example 1 using, as starting polyisocyanates, TOLONATE.®. HDT, Rhodia, a hexamethylene diisocyanate trimer with an NCO content of 0.52 mol per 100 g, or commercial TOLONATE.®. HDB (Biuret) from Rhodia, with an NCO content of 22% by weight, or TOLONATE® HDT HR from Rhodia and, as blocking agents, 2-ethylimidazole or 2-propylimidazole or 50/50 mol % mixtures with 3,5-dimethylpyrazole.

Please replace the paragraph on page 17, line 37 - page 18, line 1, with the following paragraph:

The hardeners are employed in a varnish based on JONCRYL SC 922X (an acrylic polyol from S.C. Johnson, with 4.4% of OH and a solids content of 80%) in the absence of catalyst.